MORRISES, MENDENHALLS, BARTLETTS, RANDOLPHS

of

Mt. MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

or
(and allied families.)

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Compiled by:
Ralph B. and Rita H. Morris
New York City, N. Y.

April, 1961

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25 p. 29 cm.

1. Morris family. 2. Mendenhall family. 3. Bartlett family. 4. Randolph family.

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Introduction: Past, Present, and Future

Morrises and Mendenhalls, Bartletts and Randolphs were among the earliest of Britain's North American colonists. Most of them, and it is true of the families with whom they intermarried also, came first to Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Long Island or Virginia. Some stayed put; but as time went on and families multiplied, others of them, for one reason or another, went to make homes in Nantucket, Connecticut, New Jersey, North Carolina; and, as more time passed, to Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Utah, California, Oregon. Why they went, the lives they lived in new places, the values they cherished, the standards they set for themselves, the kinds of communities they helped to build, is part of the story of America; a part that never, perhaps, can be fully told.

What follows is a small piece of that history, interesting mainly to those descended from the Morrises and Mendenhalls, the Bartletts and the Randolphs who, moving West, had a share in bringing Iowa into the union of States. And credit for the history must go to Margaret Bartlett Russell. It was she who requested the writer, niece by marriage and, in 1933, recently moved to New York City with her husband Ralph Bartlett Morris, to search out the Randolph ancestry. Margaret wanted to know more about her forbears. To go on was the record in the family Bibles, handed down word-of-mouth stories of family history, and a brief account of an 'emigration' from New Jersey to Ohio by wagon and flat boat in 1794.

Many an amateur genealogist is born out of the happy hope that with the name "Bartlett," for instance, one's ancestor must be "Josiah, the Signer." If a Morris, one, hopefully, is descended from Gouverneur of Morrisania (New York); or from Robert of Philadelphia, who guided the revolting colonies through financial difficulties successfully before succumbing to his own in a later day. Not less Margaret. Wanting to know more about her ancestors, meant precisely to know more about the Randolphs. For she was convinced John Randolph of Roanoke would prove to be the forbear of the Iowa Randolphs.

He wasn't. Nor are Gouverneur or Robert kin to the Iowa Morrises. And the authors leave it to someone else to find any connection between Josiah Bartlett of Kingston, New Hampshire and Jesse of Henry County, Iowa. Like any research, that of the genealogical variety requires persistence and patience. It is often frustrating, but has its satisfactions. As when, for instance, after several years, many false starts, and with the help of friends one has met along the way, a link is forged between the Randolphs of Iowa and Ohio and their ancestors of New Jersey and Scituate; he who first came to the latter place in 1630.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of people occupy themselves to the exclusion of almost anything else with the location of ancestors. And some of these, upon success at digging up their own, turn professional to help others in the disinterment process. For most, the objective of the chase is to establish eligibility for membership in the Societies: the Daughters or Sons of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames, Mayflower Descendants, Society of the Cincinnati, among others. For these are the shrines through which AncestorWorship, United States style, is practised.

But there is pleasure in the chase itself: following up leads, getting confirmation on a marriage, locating a will, making new friends, even finding new relatives. At one time the writers had a collection of "Dear Cousin" correspondence that ranged the country. It included Bartletts in Virginia, Fitz Randolphs in California, Quaker Mendenhalls in Baltimore, Mormon Mendenhalls in Salt Lake City. All were interested, all wanted to be helpful. It was Mrs. Louise Aymar Christian,* a Fitz Randolph connection, who found the missing piece that fitted the Fitz Randolph puzzle; and Mrs. Alta Heiser** of Hamilton, Ohio - no kin at all - who introduced to us the charming home that Joseph Fitz Randolph (one of Ralph Morrises great great grandfathers), built for his family outside Hamilton in 1805.

To us, however, the greatest satisfaction in genealogical pursuits came in a growing sense of our country's history, a depeepening of understanding as to that history. Not "history" as it is taught in the schools and colleges: wars, dates, and Indians; or social, economic, and political 'trends.' What we learned was about people. And what is history if not people:

What were they like, these pioneers: What did they hope for: What besides their names have we derived from them: There was courage. Of the kind that enabled men and women to take their children and risk the unknown for the known. One senses too an underlying sturdiness - stability, security, confidence - call it what you will, that belies merely a restless-surging-for-adventure's-sake to the new West. Yet it is out of one kind of restlessness, in combination with courage, sturdiness and other human qualities, that the young nation grew, flourished, and faced its challenges. And we may ask whether the inheritance from our ancestors is sufficient to the challenge of today and tomorrow.

Rich it seems to us they are in character, the ancestors of those who settled in Iowa. But they are not numbered as "rich" or "famous." It is worth noting, however, that Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, a collateral

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*author, with Howard Stelle Fitz Randolph, of the "Fitz Randolph Genealogy." (See Bibliography)

**author of "Quaker Lady," "Hamilton In The Making," "West to Ohio," and many newspaper articles on early Ohio history.

ancestor, contributed land, and raised money that Princeton College might be located where it is today. Another collateral, Benjamin Fitz Randolph, was a noted cabinet maker. He made the desk on which Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence; and two chairs of his are in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum, New York. A Mendenhall was one of the heroes at the battle of Shiloh in the Civil War, credited by some with saving the Union armies from defeat. And Levi Coffin (kin to Mendenhalls and Morrises), was the President, or Chief Conductor, of the Underground Railway of pre-Civil War days.

Margaret Bartlett Russell, upon learning something of the Fitz Randolph family history, was willing, albeit somewhat reluctantly, to discard Virginia's John Randolph and accept her "proved" ancestor, Edward Fitz Randolph, gentleman of Langton Hall, Nottinghamshire who, emigrating from England in 1631, went first to Scituate in Massachusetts, removing thence to Barnstable and finally to Piscataway, New Jersey.

The V. D. Morrises of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, And Their Descendants

So this history will begin with the marriage of Margaret Russell's older sister, Elnora May Bartlett to Vierl Daniel Morris. Taking place, January 2, 1896 in the parlor of the farm home of the bride's father and mother in Henry County, Iowa, it united the Iowa branches of the Morris and Mendenhall, Bartlett and Randolph families.

The young couple made their home in Mount Pleasant, and the bridegroom, who had learned the jewelry business in his father's store, and the optical business at school, opened a jewelry and optical store with his friend Hervey Crane. It was not surprising then, that "V.D.'s" and "Nona's" first son, born January 22, 1897, was named Hervey Clark ("Hervey" for his father's partner, "Clark," for his grandfather Morris). A second boy, their only other child, came to them on July 3, 1898, and was called Ralph Bartlett Morris.

Hervey and Ralph were born in a more or less quiet interlude of the world's history: following the nineteenth century's Industrial Revolution and before the twentieth century's Atomic age had begun to shake the world.

Before World War I their home, Mount Pleasant, was a town of about 3,000 people, and the county seat of Henry County. In agricultural states - and "the West" was still more agricultural than industrial - a county seat with its court house was usually the most important town in the area; and the church and shopping center for the vicinity. Up until the turn of the century, not many such towns had paved streets. There was little occasion. Automobiles were sufficiently novel that little boys

the age of Hervey and Ralph, ran after tham calling, "Yah, yah, why doncha get a horse." There were no motel swimming pools; only "Big Creek" in which to swim. No motels for that matter; or radios or television. Movies, at that time called nickelodeons because five cents was the price of admission, were beginning to come in.

There were no automatic furnaces then, and but little inside plumbing. So despite the delights of swimming, fishing, exploring the woods, playing "Indian," baseball or football, there were also chores - both in town or in the summer when much time was spent at Grandfather Bartlett's farm - water to be pumped, wood to be cut, animals to be tended.

Sometimes trips were taken. Not, it is true, half way across the world by jet, but what may have been even more exciting, on the cars; trips to visit grandmother Morris, great grandmother Mendenhall and the Mendenhall cousins in Fairfield; or around and about to see Bartlett and Randolph uncles, aunts and cousins. Getting to know more people, see more places, to find new ideas, partake of new experiences: in any age or any time a part of the process of growing up. Like going to school ...going to church and Sunday school...even going to war. Like getting married...and bringing a new generation into the world.

The Morris boys' education was interrupted by the first World War. From it Hervey emerged a second lieutenant in the Artillery; after being commissioned, because of skill in mathematics, he was sent to Fort Sill and finished out the war as an instructor in the School of Fire.

Ralph, so young in May, 1917, he had to have his parents' consent to enlist, spent six months with the Army of Occupation in Germany where he was sent from France in 1918 after the signing of the Armistice.

Afterwards Hervey and Ralph both went to Iowa State College in Ames, and both were graduated as Chemical Engineers. Hervey was a star baseball player, being a "switch hitter" (one who bats either right or left-handed.)

Following college, Hervey taught a year and then went to work for the Hercules Power Company at its plant in Brunswick, Georgia. There he met and married, on May 13, 1924, Miss Anne Wright Burnett. In the meantime Ralph had gone directly from college to a research laboratory in Chicago. In that city a few years later, on September 8, 1926, he married Miss Rita Wild Handschy.

This marriage was 'without issue' as the genealogists say; but Hervey's and Anne's was blessed with two attractive red heads: Anne Wright on February 6, 1925, and John Burnett on February 10, 1930.

Hervey died November 16, 1931; and Anne and the two children went to live in the home of the children's maternal grandmother in Georgia. They were far away from the Iowa and Chicago Morrises, but love and concern for the family of the lost son and brother served, over the years, to strengthen the ties between them in spite of the distance. And in

1932, when Ralph and Rita moved from Chicago to New York, the distance was lessened; and later the "New York Morrises" were able to have Anne come north to Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, and John to Columbia College in New York City.

At this writing, Hervey's and Anne's children are grown and married.

Anne Wright, on April 26, 1947 was married to Jacob Boris Berlin; and

John Burnett, on August 25, 1952 to Harriet Barnes Pratt.

John was ordained a priest in the Episcopal church in 1954; and in 1961 "Jack" Berlin was similarly ordained.

At present reckoning the two families number the following:

To Anne and Jack -
Alexander Alan, March 12, 1952, at Tehran, Iran (Persia)
Ralph Bartlett, October 1, 1953, also in Iran.
Christopher Burnett, July 18, 1955, at Brunswick, Georgia
Letitia Wright, July 15, 1960, at Baltimore, Maryland

To John and Patsy -
Anne Burnett, October 4, 1953, at Alexandria, Virginia
Christopher Wright, May 28, 1955, at Dillon, South Carolina
John Burnett, junior, May 21, 1958, at Lumberton, North Carolina

To set the stage for the family history of these young ones, let us go back to the wedding day of Hervey's and Ralph's parents.

Present, in addition to the mother and father of the bride were such of Elnora's brothers and sisters with wives, husbands and offspring as lived nearby, as well as sundry Randolph and Bartlett cousins. From Fairfield, Iowa, twenty-three miles away, the home of the groom, came his mother, sister and brothers. Vierl's father, Calvin Clark Morris, did not live to see his oldest living son married, having died July 1, 1890.

Clark, as he was called, was the only Morris to come to Iowa from Indiana. Both his family and that of his wife's father, Daniel Mendenhall, had moved from North Carolina to Indiana. Quaker families were the Morrises and Mendenhalls who left the South for conscience sake over the matter of slavery. Calvin Clark Morris, so far as we know, was a member of the Society of Friends in good standing when he met Daniel Mendenhall's daughter, Sarah Jane. For in her diary she mentions attending Meeting with him several times in Plainfield, Indiana. But early in 1866 the Mendenhalls were converted to Free Methodism, and the marriage of Sally and Clark was performed by a minister of that faith, the Reverend A. Axaline.

1780...The Morrises of North Carolina

The Morris line has been traced back to Benjamin Morris of Pasquotank county, North Carolina. He was a member of the Back Creek Monthly Meeting, Society of Friends; and it is recorded in their records that he died on July 25, 1807.* His wife's name was Sarah ( ), and the couple had twin boys, Reuben and Ruben, born November 18, 1780. Whether there were any other children, we do not know.

On reaching manhood, young Reuben married Miriam Copeland, born June 19, 1786, and daughter of Joshua and Susanna Copeland, who were members of the Chowan county, North Carolina Monthly Meeting. The date of Reuben's and Miriam's marriage is not known. Probably it took place in Randolph county, North Carolina. The first three children, Benjamin, John and Joseph, were born in North Carolina - Joseph on September 22, 1813. Four others, Sarah, Levi, Samuel and Mary, were born after the family moved to Indiana.

On July 29, 1815, the Whitewater, Indiana Monthly Meeting reports that Sarah Morris and her sons Reuben and Ruben "were received." The Copelands also became members of this meeting. By 1835, however, the Reuben Morrises had moved to Spiceland, Indiana, and there lived out their lives. The records of that Meeting record the deaths of Reuben and Miriam, respectively, January 11, 1864 and August 22, 1860.

The records show also that on August 19, 1835 their son Joseph requested a certificate to the White Lick Monthly Meeting in order to accomplish his marriage with Elizabeth White. The wedding was "accomplished" December 16, 1835 in Mooresville, Morgan county, Indiana. Joseph and Elizabeth had four sons, Alford who died young, Vierling Kersey, Calvin Clark and Levi Coffin. After Elizabeth died, July 9, 1871**, Joseph married again (Anna H____), and by her he had a daughter Mary Elizabeth, who was under age when Joseph died July 26, 1899. This we know from his will which is filed in the Marion County Court House, Indianapolis.

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* This date would seem to preclude any possibility that the Iowa Morrises are descended from Robert Morris of Philadelphia. For in 1937, the Federal Writers' Project found the will of Robert Morris in the office of the Register of Deeds of McDowell county, at Marion, North Carolina. Filed November 10, 1795, acknowledged by Robert June 16, 1804 as his last will and testament, it mentions his wife, Mary, two daughters, Hettie (Mrs. Marshall) and Maria (Mrs. Dixon), and three sons, Robert, Thomas and Henry. (N.Y. Times 2/22/37).

**She is buried in the Friends' grave yard, Bridgeport, Marion county, Indiana.

Calvin Clark, born May 30, 1842, came to Iowa because of Miss Sarah Jane Mendenhall. This is the story: "Sally," as she was known to her friends, daughter of Daniel J. and Susanna (Pierce) Mendenhall, of Fairfield, Jefferson county, Iowa, came "East" in 1865 to pay "an extended" visit to assorted aunts, uncles and cousins, in various party of Indiana. From pictures, including one made from an old daguerrotype, we know she was beautiful; and judging from the diary* kept by her during the course of her journeying, she had a delightful time, was popular with all, and attracted young men like a honey-pot does bees.

So beguiled was young Mr. Morris that the spring following her visit to Indiana, he was attracted right out to her parents' home on West Main Street; and in its handsome double parlor, on April 25, 1866, they were married. Clark and his Sally had five children:

Frank J., born November 2, 1868; died March 8, 1871

Vierl Daniel, born November 15, 1872; died March 4, 1958, Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Walter L., born February 5, 1875; died March 30, 1941, Ramona, California; married, Elizabeth _____, (date unknown)

Fred C., born April 11, 1878; died October 29, 1946, Kansas City, Missouri; married, January 22, 1902, LaRue Campbell (born February 18, 1879; died December 29, 1952)

Grace S., born June 12, 1882, married Eugene Robinson, September 3, 1907, (Grace and Gene living in Longmont, Colorado)

1670...The Mendenhalls of Pennsylvania

As for the fair Sally's "folks," the Mendenhalls arrived from Marridge Hall, Wiltshire, England sometime in the 1670's or 80's. Moses Mendenhall, his sister Margery, her husband Thomas Martin and their four children arrived on the "Unicorn." Moses bought land of his brother Benjamin. It is thought that Benjamin and John, another brother, arrived earlier. In 1683 John's marriage to Elizabeth Maris is recorded in the Concord Friends' meeting. John and Elizabeth had three sons, the youngest of

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* Sarah Jane Mendenhall's diary is in the possession of Dorothy Morris Browne (Mrs. Leland), daughter of Fred C.; address, Newtown, Bucks county, Pennsylvania. A copy is in the possession of Ralph B. Morris.

whom, Aaron was born September 20, 1690, at East Caln, Chester county, Pennsylvania (and died there April 30, 1765). He married, April 16, 1715, Rose Pierson of Concord.

It was Aaron's and Rose's second son James who, with his second wife, Hannah Thomas, daughter of Richard Thomas of Wales, and their six children, moved to Guilford county, North Carolina. There they settled in Deep River on 204 acres of land bought out of the grant made to the Earl of Granville. James had a son Elijah, whose son Daniel had a son, also called Elijah.

This Elijah was born February 6, 1797 and lived until July 20, 1875. He was married, on January 9, 1817, at the Deep River Meeting House to Huldah, daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Bellinger) Coffin. Elijah, his wife Huldah, and four children, including their second son Daniel, moved from Guilford county, North Carolina, to Wayne county, Indiana. In Indiana six more children were born to them, the first in 1827. But it was Daniel, born December 12, 1819, in Guilford county, North Carolina, married to Susannah Pierce in Wayne county, Indiana on August 24, 1841, with whom we are concerned. They were married the day after Susanna's eighteenth birthday, and moved to Iowa soon after the marriage, for their first child Ester, was born in Fairfield, November 22, 1842. The next child was Sarah Jane, born January 17, 1845, died March 1, 1936, who married Clark Morris. Other children born to Daniel and Susanna Mendenhall were as follows:

Lewis, born February 20, 1849

Moses (died in infancy)

William, born January 18, 1852; died aged 4 years

Mary E., born August 15, 1855

Annie, born May 15, 1859

Laura, born August 31, 1862; died, unmarried, aged 17 years.

Daniel Mendenhall was a gunsmith, well known as far distant as California. He speculated in 'wild' lands and then engaged in the commission business on the line of the Burlington and Mississippi Railroad (now the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy). He established commission houses at Fairfield, Ottumwa, and along the line of the Des Moines Valley Railroad (now the Rock Island). Later he was Vice President of the First National Bank of Fairfield.

Susannah outlived her husband by thirty-one years; and died on February 23, 1904, aged 81, in the stately Georgian brick house Daniel had built for her. We know Susannah was the daughter of John and Anna ( ) Pierce of Wayne County, Indiana. We do not know whether the Pierce's

had other children. And all we know about her family is contained on a scrap of paper in the handwriting, apparently, of Susannah herself. It says,

"My Grandfather Pierce was borned in Grayson county, Virginia. his father came over with the original colony which accompanied William Penn. he was a member of 'Society of Friends.' "

1642...The Coffins of Nantucket

We know considerably more than this about Daniel Mendenhall's maternal ancestors. His mother's maiden name was, as has been indicated, Huldah Coffin. It happens that the mother of Elizabeth White Morris - wife of Joseph Morris - was a Coffin also: born Mary Coffin. And it was through the published "Reminiscences" of Mary's brother Levi Coffin that we learned about the Whites and located Joseph Morris.

In 1642 Tristram Coffin, his wife, five children and his mother (widow of Peter Coffin of Brixton, Devon, England), and two sisters settled in Salisbury, Massachusetts. They soon moved to Haverhill (then called Newbury), then back to Salisbury, and in 1660 to Nantucket Island which a group of Salisbury men, he among them, had bought from Thomas Mayhew in 1659. Tristram was a Commissioner of Salisbury in 1654; and from 1671-73, and again, 1677-80, was Chief Magistrate of Massachusetts with governing powers. He died in Nantucket October 2, 1681, but before that time he and his wife, Dionis (Stevens) Coffin had four more children born in Massachusetts including John their next to youngest, who was born on October 30, 1647 at Haverhill.

Before departing this world at Edgartown, Nantucket in 1711, John and his wife Deborah, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Starbuck) Austin, presented five sons and five daughters to the world, besting the senior Coffins by one. Like his father, John Coffin was active in public affairs. June 6, 1684 he was commissioned lieutenant of the Militia at Nantucket Island.* By that time he and Deborah had been married sixteen years.

John and Deborah's sixth child and fourth son was Samuel. He was born in Nantucket, probably in 1677; and died there February 22, 1764. He was married in 1705 to Miriam, daughter of Richard and Mary (Austin) Gardner, junior. From this marriage came ten children, five daughters and five sons. The sixth child and fourth son, was William, born November 4, 1720.

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* Descendants of John Coffin are eligible to membership in the Colonial Dames.

One month before his twentieth birthday, on October 4, 1740, William was married to Priscilla, daughter of Nathaniel and Ann (Bunker) Paddack (or Paddock). When fifty-three, the father of ten children - eight boys and two girls - William and his wife with their younger children, including nine year old Levi, moved to the South.

Their certificate from the Meeting in Nantucket was dated October 26, 1772, and they were received by the New Garden Monthly Meeting in North Carolina the day after Christmas. Many Nantucket Friends moved to North Carolina at this time, and as we have seen from the Mendenhall records, so did Pennsylvania members of the Society.

Libni Coffin, the eldest son of William and Priscilla, had preceded his parents South, and at least three other sons came later; among them Barnabas, who arrived on May 29, 1773 with his bride of four months, Phoebe, daughter of Joseph and Phoebe (Folger) Marshall.

Descendants of William Coffin are eligible for membership in the Daughters or Sons of the American Revolution, for in the Lineage Book of the "Daughters," volume 55, page 309 (#54715), it is recorded that William Coffin, a Quaker who settled in North Carolina, 1773, whose home was near the Friends' Meeting House (a hospital during the Revolutionary War battle of Guilford County Court House) nursed in his home, the wounded officers.

There are two of William's sons involved in our family history: Barnabas the fourth son, and Levi the youngest. In what appears to have become Coffin tradition, Barnabas and Phoebe produced ten children. The eldest of these, Joseph, born January 12, 1774, even bettered the tradition. By starting younger, he fathered thirteen. Only eighteen years was he in 1792 when Hannah, the daughter of John and Catherine ( ) Bellinger became his bride. It may have been an elopement, or secret marriage. In any case on May 6, 1793, the Meeting Records show that Joseph was dismissed from the Society "for marrying out of unity." Somewhere along the way, however, the couple must have made their peace with the Quakers, for on March 5, 1840, Joseph and Hannah were accorded a certificate to Springfield Monthly Meeting, Wayne county, Indiana.

As early as 1815, Joseph's parents were given a certificate to Indiana; but it is possible Barnabas died in North Carolina before they made the move West. The records are conflicting. And some ten years later, in 1826, one of Joseph's daughters, Huldah (born June 6, 1799) had gone to Indiana with her husband Elijah Mendenhall. It is through Elijah and Huldah, and their son Daniel, that we come again to the Sarah Jane Mendenhall, Daniel's daughter, who married Calvin Clark Morris.

Levi Coffin, the eighth and youngest son of William and Priscilla and brother of Barnabas, was born October 10, 1763. On January 4, 1786, when he was twenty-three, he married Prudence, the daughter of Richard and Prudence (Bales) Williams. Levi and Prudence had six daughters and a

son. We are particularly interested in two of their children: Mary, their third daughter, born March 10, 1792, and Levi, their only son, born October 28, 1798.

We are interested in Levi because through him we learned about Mary's husband, Benjamin White; and also of their journey from North Carolina to Mooresville, Indiana. For Levi Coffin wrote a book, called "Reminiscences."* And in it he tells about the summer of 1822 when he "engaged himself" to drive his brother-in-law's team the six hundred miles from New Garden, North Carolina to the "Far West" as Indiana was then called. Because "slavery and Quakerism could not prosper together," Benjamin and Mary Coffin White, their four children and a niece of Benjamin's, disposed of their property to make the move to free territory. This was a general movement on the part of Southern Friends, and it is strengthening to know, when present times are difficult, that one's forebears "held to their convictions."

1635...The Whites of Virginia

Of the four children who made the journey to Indiana, one was the White's eldest daughter, the then nine year-old Elizabeth. Thirteen years later she was to become the wife of Joseph Morris, a great-grandfather of Hervey and Ralph.

Her ancestors were John and Henry White who came to Virginia from England and settled in James Cittie county. Here in 1635 a son was born to Henry's wife. In 1660, Henry, junior as he was called, married Mary Croshaw. In 1663, having obtained 700 acres on Carawtucks Creek that "falls into Kecoughtank River," he and his family settled in Passquotank county, North Carolina where he lived until his death forty-nine years later on August 3, 1712. Henry, junior was a "weighty Friend," being a minister as well as the Recorder of the Little River Quarterly Meeting. He is worthy of note as a father also, siring fifteen children by Mary who died in 1679, and eight by his second wife, Damaris Morrison whom he married in 1681.

John, the fifth child of Henry and Mary was born May 20, 1676, and died January 25, 1717. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Newby before 1700, and by her had seven children. John White's son James, born November 1707 in Pasquotank county, lived and died there as had his father before him. He married Miriam, the daughter of Henry Keaton, January 1731, and she bore him two sons Benjamin and James. We know James, senior died in 1750, and his son Benjamin in 1784; but we know neither the birth or death date of James, junior. However, we do know

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* See Bibliography, attached.

the date of his marriage, and the names of his wife and children. James White, junior was married October 23, 1768 to Elizabeth Symons whose father was Joseph. The couple had seven children. Their youngest was Benjamin, born August 25, 1790, who married May Coffin and came to Indiana.

It was somewhat surprising to read that Benjamin White was disowned by the New Garden Meeting January 30, 1813 "for marrying out of unity". The Whites and Coffins were "solid" Friends so we can imagine either that Benjamin and Mary were too eager to wait for the Society's committees to report on the state of affairs, or that Benjamin was too much of a newcomer to the community to be accepted by some who, like the Coffins,were old timers. For Benjamin, with his next oldest brother John, had gone from Pasquotank to Guilford County in March 1808, being received by the New Garden Meeting there on May 28.

However, everything turned out all right. On October 30, 1813, Benjamin and Mary "requested" the Society "receive" them. It did; and nine years later, sent their certificates as Friends in good standing to the New Garden Monthly Meeting in Indiana.

According to Mary White's brother Levi Coffin writing in his "Reminiscences", they went west by the road that crossed the Blue Ridge at Ward's Gap in Western Virginia, thence through Eastern Tennessee and Kentucky to reach the Ohio River at Cincinnati. This was considered the best route for loaded wagons. It appears that the travelers stayed in Wayne County through the winter. In any case, it was the following spring when Benjamin entered tracts of government land in White Lick about 20 miles southwest of Indianapolis where Mooresville now stands. And here Sarah Jane Mendenhall visited on her journey from Iowa in 1865.

Levi Coffin besides relating how the White family came through the mountains, tells us that one day during the five week journey, "four or five ruffians" stopped and searched the White's wagon along with that of another family that were travelling with them. The men excused themselves on the grounds of searching for "a little dog they had lost." Suspecting they were looking for a runaway negro slave, the Quakers let them search as much as they wanted in order to avoid being bothered again. One wonders whether it was this adventure that planted in Levi Coffin's mind the idea for the "Underground Railroad;" a railroad minus tracks or road bed, its "cars" being carts, wagons, river boats, horses, its "stations" or "depots" barns, houses, or corncribs belonging to persons trustworthy enough, and courageous enough, to hide from their pursuers negro slaves who were trying to escape from the South to freedom in Canada.

There are other reasons to know about Levi, "President" or "Chief Conductor" of this famous (or infamous, depending on which side one was on in those days), transport for runaway slaves. He and his wife were the prototypes for the Quaker couple in Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Also, in 1867, Levi was sent as a delegate to the World Anti-Slavery conference in London. In his time some people considered him "nefarious;" others believed him to be a great hero; but no one denied his fearless courage.

Quaker adherence to principle, was almost bred-in-the-bones of the Morrises, Mendenhalls and their kin, although in some instances it was "persuaded" into Mormonism and Methodism under the fire of late nineteenth century evangelicism. The Bartlett-Randolph lines on the other hand were more likely to be found in the pews of the Presbyterian, Methodist-Episcopal or Baptist churches, but the 'tinge' of Quakerism was not absent as we shall see.

1807...The Bartletts of Virginia

Jesse Duncan Bartlett was "Baptised and united with the Tuscarora Baptist Church" of Pilot Grove, Lee county, Iowa on the 17th day of October 1858; and later we find him a staunch pillar of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. But his mother, of Scotch-Irish descent, was a Presbyterian and his father "united" with that church after their marriage.

Less is known as to the forebears of the Iowa Bartletts than of any other line with the exception of the Pierces whose daughter was married to Daniel Mendenhall. However, there have been Bartletts in New England and in Virginia since the very early days of settlement.

John William Bartlett was born in Frederick county, Virginia May 8,1807. Leaving there in 1826 when he was nineteen, presumably on his own, he went first to Ohio and later to Indiana. It was here he married Catherine Carmichael, born October 12, 1808, and the daughter of Duncan and _____, both of whom had been born in Pennsylvania. John Bartlett and Catherine Carmichael were married by Sylvester Scovel, a Presbyterian minister in Lawrenceburg, Rush county, Indiana, March 2, 1830. There they remained twenty-six years, there were their children borne. But in 1856 they pulled up stakes and moved to Iowa, settling first in Lee county, later in Henry. Catherine pre-deceased her husband by almost six years, dying August 5, 1879. In 1882 John was married again to Mrs. Sarah Stevens of Hardin county. She survived her husband who died May 22, 1885.

Both John and Catherine were buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Mount Pleasant.

John and Catherine had ten children. It was their third son and fifth child, Jesse Duncan Bartlett who, on April 9, 1861, one of the last few stormy days before Fort Sumter's fall, married the barely nineteen year old Rachel Anna Maria Randolph.

Jesse and Anna Bartlett had seven children as follows:

Benjamin Eugene, born February 22, 1862, died June 29, 1901; married, August 20, 1887, Nellie G. Marris.

Minnie Catherine, born July 23, 1863; died, unmarried, May 3,1955.

Myrtle Julia, born August 23, 1866; married, April 3, 1890, Walter Bruce Howell. Myrtle is living in Waterloo, Iowa.

William Leonard, born April 11, 1870; died December 13, 1941; married, August 26, 1891, Bertha Della Myers. Della is living in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Elnora May, born October 9, 1872; died, August 13, 1944; married, January 2, 1896, Vierl Daniel Morris.

Margaret Alice, born August 17, 1875; died, October 30, 1953; married, December 29, 1903, R. Dale Russell.

Walter Clair, born March 12, 1881; died December 15, 1949; married, April 2, 1903, Nina Barker.

1630...The Fitz Randolphs (Randolph) of Massachusetts and New Jersey

And so we come back to the Randolphs; and the brief account of their journey from New Jersey to Ohio, a copy of which was given to the writer by Margaret Bartlett Russell in 1934. It reads:

> "March, 1794, emigrated by wagon to a tract north of Pittsburg where, during the summer, they built a flat boat, and floated same down into the Ohio and down the stream to Columbia at the mouth of the Little Miami river where they remained until the Spring of 1795, when they went to the mouth of the Big Miami, remaining there until the Fall of the same year. They ascended the Big Miami to Fort Hamilton, where they remained five miles up same and settled on same bought of Judge Dayton of New Jersey." *

The author of these notes, writing of his ancestor's trip West, appears to have been the Methodist Episcopal Deacon, Joseph F. Randolph, father of Rachel. "Anna M.," as she signed her name, was born in Butler county, Ohio, January 26, 1842; and was ten when her parents with their seven

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* McBride, James: "History of Butler County, Ohio," says Benjamin Fitz Randolph settled at Columbia in 1788. Either McBride or Joseph F. Randolph may be in error. Or it is possible Benjamin came out at the earlier date, later returning to New Jersey to bring back his family.

children travelled westward to Iowa. The family settled in Salem, Henry county, one of the oldest Iowa settlements. Here two years later, the mother died; and little twelve year old Anna took over the duties of the household: caring for her two-year old sister and running the farm household for her father and five big brothers.

It was not for long, however. The farmer-preacher was destined to outlive two more wives before his "earth's pilgrimage" was over. First, Mary Ann Lynch; and second in 1866, Mrs. Rebecca Payne Gardner by whom he had a daughter, Nevada. The third Mrs. Randolph died in 1885; while Joseph, according to his obituary lived to the ripe old age of 86 years, 6 months and 18 days. He died at the home of his youngest child Nevada Randolph Witte on December 3, 1895. Two of the children by his first wife had pre-deceased him: Benjamin F. in 1862 as a result of wounds received in the Civil War, and Mary Julia in 1868, aged 18.

The information about Joseph Randolph was given to me by Margaret Russell. The information, some of it doubtless taken from the family's Bible or Bibles, included the names of Joseph's father and grandfather with those of their wives and children. Margaret Russell's material stated that Joseph Randolph's grandfather, Benjamin, was married in Trenton, New Jersey; that Benjamin's son, Joseph, married Nancy Stout; and that the Stout family hailed from New Jersey.

With this much to go on, it looked as though the search would be easy. In the case of the Stouts it was; but the Randolph's were a different kettle of fish. There were so many of them for one thing; and the maiden name of Joseph's grandmother as written into the Bible, or copied from it, was incorrect,* due perhaps to peculiarities of handwriting. It took about twenty years of intermittent searching - through correspondence and visits to Mrs. Christian in New Jersey, through hours and hours working in the New York Public and the New York and New Jersey Genealogical Libraries to find the right bride for Joseph's grandfather, the right mother for his children. So what follows is the "proven" family history of the Randolphs and allied lines. Instead of working back to Joseph of Iowa, we will go forward from the Edward Fitz Randolph mentioned earlier: he who was baptized at Sutton-in-Ashfield, county Nottingham England, on July 8, 1607, moved from a comfortable home in England to the dangers of the New World, and settled at Scituate, Massachusetts in 1630.

We do not know why he came to the colonies. Because he was a younger son? For adventure's sake? Because of religious differences? That may be. Edward's family was Roman Catholic; and in the New World he married a daughter of a Deacon of the Puritan Church, and later became a member

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* The name in the family records given by Margaret Russell was _____HENDRENCK.

in the church of the Reverend John Lothrop. It was on May 10, 1637 he married Elizabeth Blossom, born in the Netherlands in 1620. She, with her parents Thomas and Ann had started from Leyden, Holland in the "Speedwell," had to turn back, and finally arrived to join Governor Bradford's colony in 1629.

Two years after the marriage of Edward and Elizabeth, the Fitz Randolphs moved to Barnstable, Massachusetts; and about 1668, from there to Piscataway, New Jersey. Most of the children accompanied their parents, although the eldest son and two married daughters remained in Barnstable; and there are Fitz Randolphs and Randolph names in various places in New England today.

Three of Edward and Elizabeth's children, Nathaniel, Mary and John died young. But the same names were given again to children born after the first-named had died. This was usual in those times, as was the giving of biblical names and the bearing of large families. (No early Fitz Randolph would have known the meaning of the term birth control; or cared!) The results were that there were almost as many clues as there were Fitz Randolphs; and more Benjamins, James, Johns, Josephs and Moses's than you could shake a stick at.

The third living son of the Fitz Randolphs, born March 1, 1655/6, was a Joseph. He married Joanna, daughter of John and Mary (Kelley) Conger, January 16, 1687/8. Joseph lived out his days at Piscataway, and before shifting off this mortal coil about 1726, he and his wife added eight daughters and four sons to all the other Fitz Randolphs populating that part of New Jersey.

Their sixth child and second son, Moses, born April 9, 1700, spent his fifty-nine years in Piscataway also, for his will was proved there (as his father's had been) and in it he names his wife and six of his children. Moses' wife was Rachel, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Drake) Hull; and their children were Benjamin, born May 20, 1725, followed by Catherine, Joseph, Rachel, Ann, Reuben, Hull, Moses and Sarah.

Benjamin in young manhood left Piscataway to go to Manahawkin, New Jersey, where he died in 1792. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of James and Charity Haywood. Their marriage license was dated May 26, 1750. This couple had six children all born in Manahawkin. And except for two of them that is all we know about this branch of the family. A daughter Ann Fitz Randolph was married in 1780 to a Jeremiah Bennett; and the birth date of a son, Benjamin, is recorded as 1755.

This was the Benjamin who moved to Ohio in 1794. He was married twice: first to Esther Woodruff, second to Rachel _____. Benjamin and Esther had four children. And the Fitz Randolph genealogy adds "by which wife is not known." We know now. After the book's publication in 1950, we located the will of the Benjamin of Manahawkin and Ohio; and visited the burial places of Benjamin, his first wife Esther, their son Joseph, and daughter Sarah. They are buried, along with Congers, Woodruffs,

Lines and other families in the old Fairfield (Ohio) Baptist Cemetery which is now in the center of a field on the James Line farm near the County Line Road on the Middletown Pike (Route 4), outside Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio.

Esther Fitz Randolph "departed this life, August 11, 1820 in the 73rd year of her age." She was pre-deceased by her son, Joseph, October 8, 1819, aged 44 years. Benjamin Fitz Randolph's time came next on February 20, 1831 when he was 76; and then Sarah F., who died unmarried in 1836. Her grave is apart from the others.

We do not know when Benjamin and Esther Woodruff (probably the daughter of David Woodruff of New Jersey) were married, but a daughter, Phebe, was born to them in 1774.* Joseph was born in 1775, Rebecca in 1777 and Sarah in 1781. It is said there were three other children, Benjamin, Esther and David who died before the family moved west. According to the way children were named in those days, this seems likely; but there is no verification.

Sometime in the six month's interval between the death of his first wife and his own death, the seventy-six year old Benjamin Fitz Randolph married again! And when his will, made only three days before he died, was opened it contains this provision: "To my wife Rachel, should she accept of the same in lieu of her dower in my real estate and not otherwise. I give and bequeath a year's provision, a Bed Bedstead and Bedding, one Chest, one little wheel, a Cow and six sheep, and sixty dollars in Cash, the cash to be paid as soon as that amount can be conveniently collected."

A local historian has learned that "there seems to have been no chest which Benjamin's daughters were willing to give up, for Nardin, the leading cabinet maker in Hamilton, was paid three dollars to make a chest for the widow." It would appear the second wife accepted the terms of the will.

The article quoted previously says that Benjamin did not leave a large estate "having given to his children while he was living to see them enjoy their 'inheritance.' " In 1805 he had given his son Joseph, 100 acres of "all north of the road." (This was the road that ran from Hamilton to Dayton.) The charming house which Joseph built on the land in 1809 is still standing (1961). It is constructed of brick made on the place, and is on a downhill slope so that it is a story and a half in front and two and a half at the back. Judging from the house, the man who built it was a person of taste and discrimination, a man

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* Fitz Randolph Genealogy lists Joseph as oldest child; but Symmes Genealogy (I believe) gives Phebe;s birth date as 1774.

of substance. And since then the house has been in good hands. It sits back, surrounded by lawns and shrubs and trees, perhaps a quarter of a mile from the public road, in quiet beauty.

Joseph,* the builder of the house was a prosperous man when he died; a farmer and a well-to-do tanner. Although he left five children, all under age - Benjamin, Joseph, David Woodruff, Elizabeth and Sarah Ann, it was not until four years later that guardians for the children were appointed; and in the meantime Joseph's widow, Nancy, had married William Thompson.

It was this Joseph's second son and namesake who moved to Iowa. Born May 15, 1809 (we wonder whether it was in the new home), he was only ten when his father died; and fourteen when the court appointed Daniel Woodmansee, a prominent citizen and a pillar of the Methodist-Episcopal Church as his guardian.

It may have been this influence that induced the boy to adopt the religion of his guardian - both the Fitz Randolphs and the Stouts were Baptists - or it may have been Love! For on October 8, 1829, before reaching his majority, young Joseph married the fifth child, third daughter of Daniel and Rachel (Cushman) Woodmansee.

Fitz Randolphs, Woodmansees, Stouts, all came from New Jersey following the Revolution; and the original Fitz Randolph land in Ohio was in the military zone of the Congressional Grant made to Cleves Symmes. It does not necessarily follow that owning such indicates service in the Revolutionary war. Assignees often sold their rights. David Woodmansee's father fought in the Revolutionary war, but it is not evident that Benjamin Fitz Randolph or Nancy Stout's father did.

1643...The Stouts of New Jersey

Nancy Fitz Randolph's father and mother were Benijah and Elizabeth (Hyde*)* Stout. Nancy was their youngest child and may have been born in Ohio after the family had moved from New Jersey *** to settle in Colerain Township, Hamilton County; but we do not know when; nor do we know where she is buried.

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* First Treasurer of Butler County 1803-1811.

** Baptized Hopewell (New Jersey) Baptist Church, 6/17/1749.

*** 8/17/1800 letters of dismission to the Western Country from Hopewell, New Jersey, Baptist Church given to Elizabeth Hide, Benijah Stout, Elizabeth Stout.

Nancy Stout's ancestors came to Long Island before the middle of the Seventeenth century. Richard Stout who founded the family in America, was the son of John, "country gentleman," born in Nottingham. The story is that Richard found his love in a family whom his father considered beneath their station. There was a quarrel, and Richard enlisted in the British navy. He finished a seven-year hitch and received his discharge when his ship was in New Amsterdam (New York City). So he stayed there, perhaps to woo and wed Penelope Van Princis, a young widow of twenty-two years of age; for he married her in 1643/44.

It is said Penelope's father came from Amsterdam, Holland. But we do not know whether he was a Hollander or an English pilgrim who fled there. In any case his twenty-two year old daughter had already lived a life full of adventure before she married her second husband.

Penelope and her first husband were on a boat wrecked off Sandy Hook. The other passengers went on while the wife remained with her husband who had been injured. Alone, they were attacked by Indians and left for dead. The husband was killed, but Penelope survived "though her skull was fractured and her left shoulder so hacked that she could never use that arm like the other. She was also cut across the abdomen so her bowels appeared; these she kept in with her hand."

Despite all this the woman lived to re-marry, to bear ten children to her second husband, and to see her offspring multiplied to 502 descendants in about eighty-eight years. She died at the ripe old age of one hundred ten years. Quite a gal, Penelope!

Following their marriage, Richard Stout and Penelope settled in Middletown New Jersey. And Nancy Stout Fitz Randolph was the direct descendant of their youngest son David, born in 1667 or 1669. He was married in 1688 to Rebecca Ashton. In his later years he moved to Amwell, New Jersey where he died; and when I took these notes (about 1933) his house in Amwell was still standing.

David's eldest son, James, born in 1694, married Catherine Simpson. Their third son was Joseph who married Mary Hixson; and <u>their</u> second son was Benijah who married Elizabeth Hyde and became the parents of Nancy, the maternal grand parent of Joseph in Iowa.

<u>1670...The Woodmansees of Connecticut</u>

Let us now take a look at that young man's in-laws: the Woodmansees, another New Jersey family transplanted to Ohio. Long before, however, three generations before, a Woodmansee had moved to New Jersey from Connecticut. At any rate it appears to have been in the Nutmeg State that the original Woodmansee in the New World settled.

There was a Robert Woodmansee who was supposed to have had a son Joseph; and he had a son, Gabriel. Gabriel we are sure of because there is a record he bought land on what is now Shaw's Neck and Truman Street, New London in 1685; and in the deed are mentioned three sons; Thomas, Joseph and Gabriel.

It is with Thomas, born August 17, 1670 in Connecticut and later moved to Shrewsbury, Monmouth county, New Jersey, where his will was proved June 18, 1737, that we are concerned. Thomas was married to Mary _____, and they had ten offspring. Their fifth child, fifth son, was James; and he was the father of Daniel of Ohio. James married Hannah Worden, October 5, 1758. She was born January 18, 1738, died April 16, 1824, and probably was the daughter of Samuel Worden (or Warden), who had a salt works in Ocean county, New Jersey. James* and two of his brothers, Asa and David served in the State Militia of New Jersey during the Revolution; and it is said that James was commissioned a lieutenant.

As a veteran, James was entitled to a land grant, but it appears to have been his son Daniel, born September 22, 1777, who initiated the move to Ohio in 1809. He came the usual route, the one taken by the Fitz Randolphs: west over the Alleghenys to Brownsville (Redstone as it was called then), Pennsylvania; and then down the Ohio river to Cincinnati. On the flatboat Daniel had a cargo of iron castings, sugar kettles, etc., which he disposed of. And with him were his father and mother, James and Hannah. Later Daniel sent for his brothers and sisters: Samuel, James, Thomas, and Hannah; and Hannah's husband John Gray. The Grays went to Preble county, but all the Woodmansees stayed in Liberty Township, Butler county, Ohio.

It may be that Daniel went out ahead to clear some of the one hundred sixty acres he bought, or to find the best way to shepherd his family and the sugar kettles down the Ohio river. At any rate somewhere, sometime, or between times, he met a young lady, wooed and wed her. She was Rachel Cushman; and we know they married in Pennsylvania because her parents lived there, and because the marriage is recorded in the Redstone Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends. This fact indicates that both Cushmans and Woodmansees were Friends; the "tinge" of Quakerism mentioned earlier.

Rachel and Daniel were married in 1801. It was a long distance from Ocean county, New Jersey to Redstone in those days. Did Daniel and Rachel ever know that originally the ancestors of both came from the same part of the world?

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* Descendants of James are eligible to the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

1621...The Cushmans of Plymouth

Rachel Cushman Woodmansee's original ancestor in this country was Robert, an agent of the Leyden Pilgrims in England. He arrived at Plymouth with his son Thomas in the ship "Fortune," November, 1621; and eventually returned to England, leaving his son in the care of Governor Bradford. Young Thomas was married about 1636 to Mary, the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Norris) Allerton. And their son, Thomas, born September 16, 1637,married Ruth, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland. Both Howlands and Allertons really did come over on the Mayflower!*

Thomas Cushman and his wife, Ruth, had three children, Robert, Thomas (born about 1670), and Desire. Later Ruth died, and in 1679 Thomas married Abigail Fuller by whom he had four more offspring.

It is with Thomas and Ruth's son we are concerned. This Thomas married Sarah Strong, and one of their sons was named Thomas. More important to this history was a son Isaac, born July 16, 1752 at New Providence, Essex county, New Jersey. (Thomas III had moved there from Connecticut, after Thomas II had moved to the Nutmeg State from Plymouth.)

Isaac** fought in the Revolutionary War and afterwards moved to Pennsylvania. In the 1790 census Isaac Cushman is shown as residing in Wharton Township, Fayette county, with his wife, two sons under sixteen, and three daughters. And we know he died there about 1837 because his last Revolutionary War pension was dated September 11, 1837. Isaac's wife was Deborah, daughter of Ephraim Frazee, and they were married probably in 1775, as their first child, a son, Isaac, was born December 19, 1776. Their second child was a daughter, Rachel, born July 18, 1778.

And it was this Rachel who in 1801 married Daniel Woodmansee in Pennsylvania. By 1809 when they moved to Ohio, the Woodmansee's had four children; and in that fertile State there were three more, including a daughter, Sarah. It was she, born December 18, 1811 who, as we have stated, married her father's ward, Joseph Fitz Randolph and went with him to Iowa.

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* Descendants of Howlands and Allertons are eligible for membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

** Descendants of Isaac Cushman are eligible to the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

And Back to Iowa

And so, with slightly more knowledge of the families than before, we are back where we started: to Iowa. Some of the travelers, like John Bartlett's son, William, who went West to Oregon, continued the westward trek. But to the Morrises, Mendenhalls, Bartletts and Fitz Randolphs who stayed, Iowa was the "home place."

They helped to settle the State. Joseph Randolph held town and school offices, and was elected a Representative from Henry county in 1857 to the Legislature, the first to meet after the adoption of the new constitution. Some of his sons, as well as Daniel Mendenhall, were among those who developed the railroads and commerce of the State. Jesse Bartlett contributed to the forces of law and order. In typical pioneer fashion, it may be noted: by going beyond the law. Citizen vigilante groups, called Anti-Horse Thief Societies, largely composed of farmers and live stock owners, were organized to break up thriving gangs of horse thieves operating inter-state. Jesse Bartlett* was an early member, and later Secretary, of one chapter of an Anti-Horse Thief Society which functioned in Missouri and south eastern Iowa.

The Bartletts were strong believers in the virtues of church membership and gave the Baptist church moral and material support. For his part, Joseph F. Randolph, until throat trouble interfered preached the Methodist-Episcopal doctrine. The Mendenhalls, as has been indicated earlier were Free Methodists; and Lewis, the third child of Daniel and Susanna was a minister of that church.

All of the settlers, according to the kind of person he or she was, had a part in fashioning the patterns of the communities in which they lived; patterns which are still reflected in customs and attitudes that exist in these same communities today.

The "younger generation" helped too. Vierl Daniel Morris, as President of the Commercial Club, worked to get physical improvements in Mount Pleasant despite objections that paved streets, lamps to light them and sewers to put under them would raise taxes. "V.D." as he was called by everyone, including his grandchildren, was active in many civic and social organizations. He served at various times as President of the Athenian, Rotary, and Commercial Clubs, and the Mount Pleasant Golf and Country Club. He was Grand Patriarch, highest office of the State of Iowa I.O.O.F. Lodge, and a member of the American Legion, Veterans' of Foreign Wars, Moose, Chamber of Commerce and Knights of Pythias. He

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* The records of the Anti-Horse Thief Society found among a miscellany of old papers in the Bartlett-Morris home on South Main Street, Mount Pleasant, were turned over to the Iowa Historical Society in 1960 by Ralph B. Morris.

served as Chairman of the City Paving Committee, Chairman of the City Band Committee, and organized the first boys' band in the public schools, Hervey and Ralph both being members. Even after he had reached three score and ten V.D. was for getting things going: from clubs, societies and minstrel shows, down to hunting and fishing expeditions.

His wife's interests went in a somewhat different direction. Serious, studious, practical, Elnora, taught school and then attended the University of Iowa before her marriage. During her married life she served for many years as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Baptist Church and as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Education. She was the only woman member of the first Social Security Board for Henry county, and the first woman in the county to be an assistant cashier of a bank. (This latter position was taken during World War I when her husband was overseas as an Athletic Director of the Y.M.C.A., and Hervey and Ralph were in the army.) Elnora managed civic duties, home duties and children, and carried on numerous social activities, including the presidency of Original Chapter "A" of P.E.O., a national woman's welfare organization founded at Mount Pleasant. Besides all this, she was as good a bridge player in her way as V. D. was in his. But she would not play for 'stakes;' or take as much as one sip of a fermented beverage!

And now back to the "children:" to Hervey, Ralph, and the other members of the family in their generation. They are grandfathers and grandmothers now. Even great grand parents! And their "pasts" are mostly in snatches of childhood recollections.

One such for Ralph Morris, at the age of five, was the excitement of going "by the cars" to visit his father's people; and the mingling of anticipation and awe over appearing before his great-grandmother Susanna Pierce Mendenhall in Fairfield. Awe in the face of such age and dignity, anticipation because he was certain to get at least one of the chocolate creams which always filled the glass jar on the table beside great-grandmother's chair.

Another recollection, strong, sweet, is that of many rides with 'Grandpa' behind his horses. (The only grandfather he knew was Jesse Bartlett. Clark Morris, the paternal grandparent had died before his own children were married.) The rides were important in Ralph's young life; as was the occasion when a loose tooth was "pulled" by the Grandfather's simple expedient of tieing one end of a piece of string to the tooth, the other to the inside knob of the barn door. With the sudden opening of the door from the outside by grandpa, out came the tooth. Other teeth must have been helped out by some one, and rides taken with other members of the family. But they are not as much remembered, or cherished as these occasions with Grandfather Bartlett. Admiration and love lingers with these memories, and a sense of companionship between a small boy and his grandfather.

This 'remembrance of things past' may, more often than is realized, be the road to the future, the shaping of a man or a woman: the impress of the elder on the younger, a look, a touch, a smile, the sound of a voice, the meaning of words spoken. Does true heritage lie here, with no fine distinctions between what is in "the blood," and what is learned at an adult's knee?

If so, this is a rich inheritance. Not materially, although evidence of poverty is lacking too. Joseph Fitz Randolph, senior, Joseph Morris and Daniel Mendenhall, for instance, were men of substance. Daniel Mendenhall lived very well in his fine house; and his daughters likewise in the homes he built for them. His second daughter, Sally Morris, from her pictures, looks 'to the manner born.' Her beauty is regal. We can imagine she may, at times, have assumed royal prerogatives. As an old lady, my impression of her was of one used to rule!

The richness of inheritance is of character (and if that has gone out of style, too bad). For all her queenly airs Sarah Jane Morris was a lady with a strong sense of right and wrong. Her son Vierl's wife was another. Elnora Morris was a personage: finely intelligent, instinctively fair, with the courage to live as she believed. Not one to try enforcing her beliefs on others, either; nor even to judge others by her standards. A remarkable woman. As was her mother.

Anna M. Bartlett had no such 'career' as her daughter Elnora. Anna's life was in her family and home. For a farm wife and mother, in the days before gas, electricity or running water, had a twenty-four-hour-day, twelve-months-a-year occupation. Even during her later years, when Jesse Bartlett, to enjoy a more leisurely life, had turned the running of his farms over to his two sons and bought the double house on South Main Street in Mount Pleasant and later than that, after she was widowed, Anna Bartlett never found herself unoccupied.

She kept her own house, helped in the church, helped to administer the estate, read her Bible, gave attention to the news of the day, paid occasional visits to her children, received them in return, and, after Vierl, Elnora, Hervey and Ralph came to live in the south side of the double house, took charge of the two boys when their mother worked in the family jewelry store. Hands, mind and heart, all were occupied with the business of life and living. Until the three day illness preceding her death.

Grandmother Bartlett knew death was coming, and had no fear of it. Ralph and I were about to return to Chicago after a Christmas visit to the home place when Gradnmother Bartlett told us. With characteristic directness, with that wonderful expression she had of looking Life straight in the face, she walked out to the car with us and said, "I don't believe I will see you again,"

And less than two weeks later before we and Raymond Bartlett driving out from Chicago could get to Mount Pleasant after a hasty summons she was gone.

Perhaps because we know more about her, because I knew and loved her, Anna Randolph Bartlett to me epitomizes the heritage of the families. Anyway the heritage of the womenfolk of the lineage. For calling her to mind, one remembers what a tiny person she was: about five feet; absurd with all those over six foot, two hundred pound big Randolph brothers of hers. Tiny but not fragile, Rachel Anne Maria Randolph Bartlett. And with all her gentle sedateness and proper decorum she was unflinching in her convictions.

"It is the same as taking five dollars in money. Isn't it?" was her comment to me one late afternoon when I showed her a prize I had brought home from a bridge party. Her voice was as usual, softly brisk; and her eyes, ever alert, viewed the object with feminine interest. But one knew. As I suspect her twenty-six year old brother Benjamin F. Randolph knew, in April 1862, when, away fighting "for the liberty of his country" he received the following "caution" in the closing paragraph of a letter from "sister Annie."

> "Dear Brother I hope you are still traveling in the ways of morality. I know you are in a hard place one that is calculated to lead a young man astray from Virtue and morality. I do not think you will be. Keep out of bad Company and away from all card players above all beware of the intoxicating draught, when wet and cold it might be a temptation. But oh resist the tempter and he will flee from you, you may not thank me for my advice and caution if I have done wrong I ask to be forgiven...."

(At the time of writing the author was twenty years old! but already a wife and mother.)

Unflinching in her convictions as she was, accepting, perhaps, the moral code of the times too unquestioningly - one did not tolerate Evil! - the letter shows also Anna's gentleness and tenderness.

That she was loving, too, a birthday note proves to us. Given with a "token," on her sixty-fifth birthday, it is in the handwriting of him who had been her husband for forty-six years. Fortunately it was carefully preserved by the recipient, for it tells us much:

> "January 26, 1842 January 26, 1907
>
> "My Dear Anna accept this Little Token of my love for you May you be Happy this Day & all the days of your Life is the sincere wish of one that Loves you Dearer than he loves his own life
>
> Jesse"

Yes, the inheritance from those who went before is sufficient for today. Indeed it is bounteous if we use it well. There is enough to treasure for sake of the past, and much to pass on to those who will make the future.

April, 1961

APPENDIX: Morrises, Mendenhalls, Bartletts, Randolphs of Mount Pleasant, Iowa

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North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends, Guilford College, North Carolina; signed "Laura D. Worth." (Much can also be obtained through Mormon Records, Salt Lake City, Utah.)

Memorabilia (In possession of Ralph B. Morris)

MORRIS: The Lineage, so far as it is available without further research, came from Miss Maud Toms, 107½ North Fifteenth Street, Richmond, Indiana; dated June 30, 1945. It includes Minutes from Spiceland Monthly Meeting, Indiana; Back Creek Monthly Meeting, North Carolina; North Carolina Yearly Meeting; and Indiana Yearly Meeting. (This communication is in the possession of Ralph B. Morris)

(Note: For further reference check Hinshaw's King Creek Meeting Records. Back Creek Meeting was set-off from King Creek, one of the earliest North Carolina Meetings. Check also Perquimans Monthly Meeting, the oldest of the North Carolina Meetings.)

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Further information may be sought through the following sources:

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Joseph Morrises will is filed in the Marion county Court House, Indianapolis, Indiana; filed July 26, 1899.

It is possible that "A Brief History of Mooresville (Indiana) and Vicinity," by Almira Harvey Hadley, in the Indiana State Library, may give information on the Morrises or Whites.

PIERCE: See note quoted from one presumably in the handwriting of Susanna Pierce, page 9 of this document. (The original is in the possession of Ralph B. Morris)

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